1	2	3
Bharti Mobile Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh, Punjab	(including Chattisgarh),
Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh North East, Orissa, West Bengal	Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh West (including Uttaranchal), Uttar Pradesh (East) and West Bengal
Fascel Limited	Gujarat	(Excluding Kolkata).
Escotel Mobile	Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh (West)	Category C Circles: Andaman & Nicobar,
Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (East)	Assam, Bihar (including Jharkhand), Himachal,
Bharti Telenet	Himachal Pradesh	Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, North East and Orissa.
Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan	
Spice Communications	Karnataka, Punjab	
BPL Cellular	Kerala	
BPL Mobile Cellular	Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu	
RPG Cellular	Madhya Pradesh	
Hexacom India	North East, Rajasthan	
Koshika	Uttar Pradesh (East)	

Closure of STD/ISD

1642. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the closure of STD/ISD and Internet was step to check and control terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that made the Centre backtrack;

(c) whether it is a fact that in an unfruitful attempt to control terrorism the genuine people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of basic communication by Centre's earlier decision; and

(d) if so, what is the estimate of the loss in terms of business and finance that could have generated by the Communication department due to Centre's decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The STD/ISD service on PCO booths in 12 districts of Jammu and Kashmir and Internet service in Jammu and Kashmir State were suspended in the month of December, 2001/January, 2002 in view of security considerations. Government had been keeping a watch on the situation and a considered decision was taken in May, 2002 to restore these facilities keeping in view the totality of circumstances.

STD/ISD facility was withdrawn only from private PCOs working under franchise scheme. However, STD/ISD facility was available to customers on house/office telephones.There was hardly any loss to BSNL due to withdrawl of STD/ISD facility.

The Internet service are pre-paid account services. No separate bills are issued to users. The loss on this account cannot be quantified because the calls come in the category of local calls.

Ultra modern development centres

1643. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether government intends to set up ultra modern development centres in the country to exploit development of Software by hiring the software engineers who returned from US;

(b) If so, the steps being taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to invite proposals for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.